Council but the Government had contented themselves with the reply that the work should be carried out by the Municipal Council. That was hard, as the Council had not sufficient funds. The Government should, therefore, take up the work without delay and redress a long-standing grievance of the people.

In the matter of trade, Changanachery needed a better communication with Alleppey than any other taluk. The existing waterway between Alleppey and Changanachery was not convenient as it was, circuitous. A direct canal between the two places was therefore absolutely necessary. The cost was insiginificant regard being had to the expenditure required for the proposed Alleppey-Kottayam road. When the canal was opened, the soil excavated could also be used for the opening of a road close by. The proposed canal would help to open communication with the interior of Kuttanad.

In conclusion, the member urged the need for the repair and improvement of the Changanachery-Chunkam canal. That canal was also absolutely necessary for the development of trade in the Changanachery taluk as it was the only canal connecting Changanachery with Kottayam to which latter place the inhabitants of Changanachery had to go frequently because the Division Cutcherry, the District Court, the Public Works Division Office, etc., under the jurisdiction of which that taluk was included were situated at Kottayam. The canal was shallow and not navigable throughout for motor launches. Big *valloms* laden with merchandise and proceeding from Cochin could not also be taken to Changanachery along the canal. The only other route was *via* Alleppey, which was circuitous. The canal should therefore be improved and made fit for navigation.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Ouseph, the construction of a shed at the Market landing will be taken up, if possible, next year.

In regard to the Poovakattu *chira*, that is a piece of work that must be undertaken by the Municipality; and, as a preliminary step, Government are now having a survey carried out at the cost of the Municipality.

Then, as regards the Changanachery-Alleppey canal, as I said already last Tuesday, Government are having the matter looked into, and enquiries are being made as to whether the people of the place will surrender lands free.

I quite agree with you in your opening remarks as to the lack of facilities for staying at Changanachery. There is a Travellers' Bungalow there which, I am sorry to say, is a thorough disgrace. By some miracle I am still alive after having stayed there for a few hours once.

144. Needs for the Changanachery town.

MR. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Member, Municipal Council, Changanachery*) said that many of the Municipal Councils of Travancore required closer supervision by the Government in respect of their constitution and working. As regards constitution, the system of nomination was defective in that it gave more importance to communalism than to the status and efficiency of the nominees. There were instances when membership was thrust upon men who had no idea of the responsibility entrusted to them. The position of an ordinary man leading a hand to mouth existence, becoming a colleague of the leading citizens of town in matters of judicial or municipal administration was not covetable. The claim of landed proprietors and *jenmies* was ignored in some cases. However, so long as the practice of nomination was adopted the Tahsildar's recommendations must prevail as they would have the best local experience in selecting persons. In making nominations to Municipal Councils, special regard must be paid to the status and ability of the persons representing landed interests. Persons holding other honorary posts should be totally excluded.

Municipal Councillors were sometimes appointed as Panchayat Court Judges or Bench Magistrates. That was not proper ; for, in Municipal cases, tried by such Judges or Magistrates the Judge and the prosecutor became one and the same person.

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Passing on to the working of the Councils, the member said that many of them were not able to finance the maintenance and improvements of the roads, tanks canals, bridges, etc., under their control. In certain wards of some of the Municipalities of North Travancore there were not even good roads, although the inhabitants there might be paying compratively a larger amount of tax than others. The Government should ask each Municipal Council to set apart a certain portion of their income for the improvement of the minor roads, assisting them with funds, if necessary. The Government could afford to help the Councils with money as they had towards the close of 1101 a surplus of Rs. 2 lakhs from the Municipal funds. There should be better co-operation between the Municipal Councils and the Public Works Department. A Municipal Council left to itself may not be able to improve a minor road or construct a bridge. The Public Works Department should therefore take up promptly the works suggested by the Council.

The Municipal Councils had no control over *porambokes* included within municipal areas. If they were handed over to the Councils, the latter would have better facilities for the improvements of roads, etc.

In land acquisition cases relating to Municipalities, the Municipal Councils should be allowed to be parties in respect of the preliminary enquiries conducted by Land Acquisition officers.

The Government should exercise a greater check and control over the proceedings of the Councils and see that the interests of the minority did not suffer. Sometimes it might so happen that certain motions were passed even against the interests of the Council. Motions in which there were recorded opinions of difference should be carefully scrutinized. In matters of appointments, etc., the Councils should be asked to follow the provisions of the Service Regulations. The Council should hear appeals preferred by the aggrieved persons. Each Council should be asked to patronize a native physician skilled in curing snake-bits. That was highly necessary in Northern and Central Travancore.

Officers of Government, who were also members of Municipal Councils, should not be excluded from voting at the elections. The principle was recognised in the Assembly election and should be extended to other elections as well, *e. g.*, the election of Presidents of Municipal Councils.

The Changanachery market was kept in a very insanitary condition. The vegetable and fish markets should be enlarged by the acquisition of more lands. The Municipal Council had no funds for the purpose. If the Government acquired the required area, they could get back the amount paid as compensation, in the shape of fees levied in the market.

The construction of the Kuttapuzha and Chalakkal canals was an immediate necessity. The construction of the first-mentioned canal had been urged upon the Government from the very first session of the Assembly and by the Economic Development Board had also recommended the same.

The Vazhur road needed metalling and other improvements between the 10th and 16th miles. It was the most important pathway leading to the interior of the elevated agricultural centres. The Main Central road also should be metalled at least within the Municipal area ; and two culverts, one near the 84th mile and the other close by the Kavala junction, should be re-constructed, the level of the latter being also raised. The improvement of the road from Putupalli to Kaviyur was another urgent need of the Changanachery taluk. This road led to Kozhenchery, a very important commercial centre, but it was badly maintained. It should be improved and made fit for cart traffic.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Gopala Pillai, I have listened with a great deal of interest to your disquisition on changes and reforms necessary, according to your views, in the Municipal administration and I am particularly interested in your numerous categorical imperatives. Possibly, you may be able to convert me to some of your views but I am afraid there are many Municipal councillors in Travancore who regard your views as heterodox. You know, local self-government is a

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very very sacred institution because it represents the will of the people as manifested through their voters. Therefore, we must not lay rash hands on it. In regard to the Changanachery Municipality in particular, I quite agree with what you say that the market there will be none the worse for a little attention and a little money lavished upon it by the Municipality. Perhaps there may be some excuse on the part of the Council for not putting their hands into their pocket for a market which brings in a considerable income to the Municipality. I gather that you are on the Municipal Council, Changanachery. Your voice will probably prevail more with them than that of Government because it will be a case of one speaking from the inside to one's own brethren, as it were. You ask the Government to undertake the cause of some of these improvements you suggest. I am not quite sure of the financial position of the Changanachery Municipality. Perhaps you can tell me.

MEMBER: Satisfactory.

DEWAN: Have you a good surplus ?

MEMBER: Last year we had some.

DEWAN: Good reserve ? How many thousands of rupees ?

MEMBER: I do not remember.

DEWAN: Anyway, Mr. Gopala Pillai, you tell me that the financial position of the Municipality is good and that it has an adequate surplus of revenue and that it has a fair reserve. A little before you said that Government has a surplus of 2 lakhs to the credit of the various municipalities taken together and the Government can come forward and help the Changanachery Municipality. Let me just point out to you that these 2 lakhs are in the hands of various municipalities and that it is not in the hands of Government from which the Government can dole out subsidies as they like. As the financial position of the Municipality at Changanachery is so strong, its credit must be equally good and if its reserves are not equal to meet the cost of its immediate improvements, I have not the slightest doubt that the Changanachery Municipality will be able to obtain a loan on interest, of course.

The Assembly adjourned for lunch at 1-25 P. M. and re-assembled at 2-5 P. M.

145. Needs of the Quilon town.

MR. E. MUHAMMAD KUNJU (*Member, Nominated*) represented that the *poramboke* land in front of the Arikada mosque, Quilon, had been, for a long time, used by the persons assembling at the mosque for worship. It should be set apart for the use of the mosque and should not be registered in the names of strangers. It was included in the Quilon bazaar area ; but, if enclosed, would be a source of inconvenience to the local Mahomedans.

The banks of the canal from Tuet Depot landing to the Kochupilamuttu *kadavu* should be improved and made fit for cart traffic as in Alleppey and bridges should be constructed across the canal at convenient places. That would tend to develop trade in Quilon. Although the subject was pressed at the previous session of the Assembly, no work had yet been done in that direction.

The road from Anchalummud to Peruman landing, a distance of 2½ miles, was in disrepair. It was the highway to Kallada, Sastankotta and other places and should therefore be improved and converted into a public road.

There were only a few small boats for crossing the Tevalli ferry. Those boats could not be used in rough weather and consequently, the school children and the people attending courts were put to much hardship. When the need for a bridge across the ferry was represented at the previous session of the Assembly, the Government had promised to try to introdnce a motor-propelled *junghar* or motor boat ferry service. But as nothing further had been done, the member prayed for the introduction of *junghar* or motor boat service.

The Tamarakulam and the Kaikulam in the Quilon town were in a bad condition and unfit for use. During the regime of the previous Dewan, there was a proposal to register one-half of the area of each tank and to repair the tank with the

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